

Correspondents' Column.

Not unfrequently we are obliged to answer the same query, perhaps every few months. This fact shows the advantage of all ex-soldiers and others interested taking the paper and keeping a file of it. Then they could at any time turn to the file and probably find the very query answered, about which they are getting ready to write or have written us. Why, soldiers, these answers to your queries are worth ten times the cost of the paper to you.

J. De V., ST. LOUIS, MO.—Write to French Minister here, Mr. Maxime Outrey.

T. M., ARCOLA, ILL.—Write to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. W. G. Le Duc.

E. N. K., CANTON, ILL.—The President's salary has not been lowered to \$25,000, it is still \$50,000.

J. W., CONCORD, PA.—John S. Wincher is Pension Agent at Washington D. C., office in Le Droit building.

P. G., CAPE MAY, N. J.—Yes, the testimony of a Hospital steward is considered of value in sustaining a claim.

N. F. E., RUTLAND, VT.—The "seven days" fights around Richmond, Va., were from June 26, to July 1, inclusive, 1862.

D. B., ST. CLOUD, MINN.—Address Colonel Charles G. McCawley, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Washington, D. C.

T. W. KANSAS CITY, MO.—By writing to the Surveyor General of Colorado, Denver, Colorado, you can obtain the desired information.

M. G. P., GALENA, ILL.—Only the children of a soldier who were under sixteen years of age at the date of his death, are entitled to a pension.

H. V., STROUDSBURG, PA.—General H. E. Paine of Wisconsin, is not at present Commissioner of Patents. He resigned and is now practicing law here.

T. M. Z., MILWAUKEE, WIS.—The name of the resident Minister of Austria, at Washington, is Baron Ernst Mayr, his address 1410 Connecticut avenue.

D. R., WILMINGTON, DEL.—Colonel Ellsworth was not killed at the first battle of Bull Run. It was fought in July, 1861. Colonel Ellsworth was shot in Alexandria, Va., by a hotel keeper named Jackson, in May, 1861.

J. C., NEW ALBANY, IND.—Soldiers are entitled to twenty-five cents a day for the period they were held prisoners of war and a like allowance for the period properly absent on furlough, provided they put their furlough in evidence.

R. J., SYRACUSE, N. Y.—There are seven divisions in the Internal Revenue Department: The Appointment, the Law, the Tobacco, the Distilled Spirits, the Accounts, the Stamp, the Assessment, and Revenue Agents Divisions. You should address the Assessment Division.

J. B. C., REDWING, MINN.—Those who enlisted subsequent to July 18, 1864, are not entitled to the second installment of bounty unless they served one-half of the term for which enlisted, unless discharged by reason of a wound or injury as contradistinguished from a disease.

M. L., ROME, N. Y.—An ex-soldier who has served three years will have to settle on and improve a homestead for two years before a patent for the same can be issued to him. If he files a declaration for a homestead through an agent, he must within six months thereafter, enter upon the tract.

J. G. R., ERIE, PA.—The pension granted to a discharged soldier during his life-time cannot be increased after his death. If you have drawn \$8 per month pension from the date of your husband's death, and have no children by the soldier who are under sixteen (16) years of age you receive the full amount allowed by law.

G. B., TOLEDO, OHIO.—The following gentlemen constitute the Committee on Invalid Pensions, of the present House of Representatives: Hons. A. H. Coffroth, of Pa., B. B. Lewis, of Ala., J. W. Caldwell, of Ky., A. J. Hostetler, Ind., H. Persons, of Ga., W. H. Hatch, of Mo., R. L. Taylor, of Tenn., J. Mason, of N. Y., G. C. Hazelton, of Wis., G. R. Davis, of Ill., and J. T. Updegraff, of Ohio.

O. H. H. B., DAYTON, OHIO.—No law has been enacted providing an artificial limb or commutation money therefor to soldiers and sailors every three (3) years instead of every five (5) years. The law remains unchanged. Perhaps you have in mind the act of March 3, 1879, which provides a truss every two (2) years and six months to soldiers, seamen &c., who were ruptured in the service of the United States.

T. T. K., DENVER, COL.—Children of soldiers of the war of 1812, or of the Mexican war or of the various Indian wars prior to March 3, 1855, are not entitled to land warrant on account of their father's service in above named wars unless they were under twenty-one years of age March 3, 1855. They may, however, no matter what their age, complete a claim pending at date of death of father or mother and receive the warrant.

R. W., ELGIN, ILL.—Q. When was the pay of soldiers of the late war increased? A.—May 1, 1864. Privates pay in artillery and infantry was increased from \$13 to \$16 a month; corporals from \$13 to \$18, and sergeant's from \$17 to \$20. We are unable to say what was the actuating motive of the legislative branch of the Government in providing this increase in pay, but we presume it was owing to the depreciation of the currency.

H. C., WILMUR, HEKIMER CO., N. Y.—Asks the following queries: 1. Who appoints the Commissioner of Pensions? 2. When will Mr. Bentley's time expire? 3. Does the Commissioner of Pensions have any power to appoint any one in the Pension Department? 4. If he does, how many, and what is each one's particular branch of labor? 5. Is each claim taken up in rotation as they are filed, or do they go by the No. of the application? 6. When a claim is delayed for more evidence, is that claim taken up again immediately on the receipt of the required evidence? Answer: 1. The President of the United States. 2. When a new Commissioner is appointed and confirmed by the Senate. 3. He appoints all his clerks and subordinates except the Deputy Commissioner of Pensions who is appointed by the President. 4. There are a number of divisions of labor connected with the office. There is the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Clerk, Medical Referee, Records and Accounts Division Chief, Navy, old war and Bounty Land Division Chief, New England Division Chief, New York Division Chief, Pennsylvania Division Chief, Ohio Division Chief, Indiana Division Chief, Illinois Division Chief, Iowa Division Chief, Southern Di-

vision Chief and Washington Division Chief. 5. They are presumed to be taken up according to date of filing. 6. It is understood that when new evidence is presented the case is taken up anew.

Soldiers' Enquiries.

Editor of The National Tribune:

LARNED, KANSAS, July 28, 1880.
The undersigned was wounded in line of duty in 1864, and sent back to general field hospital at Bridgeport, Alabama, where I remained some eight or nine months, leaving said hospital about March 1st, 1865. After becoming convalescent, I served for about two or three months as ambulance wagon master for United States field hospital at that place. While there I was treated, by Surgeon Negley or Nergley. Don't remember his initials. Should this come to the notice of any soldier who remembers me as being in said hospital I should be glad to have such address at once. Should also be gratified to hear from any one of Company C, 43d O. V. Infantry. Such information might give a suffering soldier a chance to secure his rights from the Pension Bureau. Address as above. W. RAMBO.

HIRAM JOHNSON, formerly of Company G, 14th Illinois Cavalry now residing at Morristown, Rice county, Minnesota, is desirous of obtaining the address of any officer or men who belonged to said regiment.

J. W. MAGILL, of Kiowa, Kansas, desires the address of Dr. B. F. DAVIDSON, late assistant surgeon 1st Tenn. Infantry Vols.

F. W. ELLEN, of Middletown, N. Y., wishes to know where he can get a Memorial of Company H, 11th N. Y. Heavy Artillery.

MRS. SARAH LORING, of North Boothbay, Maine, desires information from any officer or soldier of the 165th New York Volunteers in regard to the death of her son. He was a member of Company F.

Mrs. M. BABCOCK, of Ben Ficklin, Tom Green County, Texas, desires the post-office address of GEORGE L. PORTER, surgeon, who was at Falmouth, March, 1863, with Fifth U. S. Cavalry.

A. G. DAVIDSON, Ivy, Lyon County, Kansas, desires information of any of the officers or crew on the United States Gun Boat Tyler, August 9, 1863.

WILLIAM J. KNIGHT, of Floral, Cowley County, Kansas, desires present address of Captain LEVI SMITH, late of Company D, 96 New York Infantry, and Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. WOODBULL, same regiment.

Answer to a New Britain, Conn., Correspondent.

Ayes and Nays on the passage of the Equalization Bounty Bill, in the House of Representatives, 2nd session, 43rd Congress:

AYES—Adams, Albright, Atkins, Averill, Banning, Barrere, Bass, Begole, Biery, Bromberg, Brown, Buckner, Bundy, Burchard, Burleigh, Burrows, Rhod. R. Butler, Cain, Caldwell, Cannon, Carpenter, Cason, Caulfield, Cessna, John B. Clark, Jr., Clayton, Clements, Stephen A. Cobb, Coburn, Comingo, Conger, Cooke, Corwin, Cotton, Cox, Crittenden, Crossland, Crouse, Crutchfield, Danford, Darrall, Dobbins, Donnan, Duell, Dunnell, Durham, Eldredge, Farwell, Field, Finck, Fort, Foster, Freeman, Garfield, Glover, Gunckel, Gunter, Harmer, Henry R. Harris, Harrison, Hatcher, Hathorn, Havens, John B. Hawley, Gerry W. Hazelton, John W. Hazelton, Hodges, Holman, Houghton, Howe, Hubbell, Hunter, Hurlbut, Hyde, Kasson, Kelley, Lamison, Lampert, Lawrence, Lofland, Loughredge, Lowe, Lowndes, Lynch, Magee, Marshall, Maynard, McCrary, Alexander S. McDill, Jas. W. McDill, Mac Donald McNulta, Merriam, Mills, Mitchell, Monroe, Moore, Morey, Morrison, Myers, Neal, Negley, Niblack, Nunn, O'Neill, Orr, Orth, Packard, Packer, Page, Isaac C. Parker, Perry, Phillips, Pike, Thos. C. Platt, Rainey, Randall, Ray, Read, Richmond, Robbins, Jas. C. Robinson, Jas. W. Robinson, Ross, Rusk, Sawyer, Henry B. Sayler, Milton Sayler, Isaac W. Scudder, Shanks, Sheldon, Sherwood, Lazarus D. Shoemaker, A. Herr Smith, Geo. L. Smith, H. Boardman Smith, Wm. A. Smith, Snyder, Southard, Speer, Sprague, Stanford, St. John, Stone, Strait, Chas. R. Thomas, Thompson, Thornburgh, Todd, Townsend, Tyner, Vance, Waddell, Waldron, Wallace, Walls, Jasper D. Ward, Marcus L. Ward, Wells, Whitehead, Whiteley, Whitthorne, Wilber, Geo. Willard, Chas. G. Williams, John M. S. Williams, Wm. Williams, Wm. B. Williams, Willie, James Wilson, Jeremiah M. Wilson, Wolfe, Woodworth, and John D. Young—177.

NAYS—Arthur, Barnum, Bowen, Buffinton, Chittenden, Crooke, Dawes, Eames, Gooch, Eugene Hale, Hamilton, Benj. W. Harris, John T. Harris, Joseph R. Hawley, Hayes, Hereford, Herndon, E. Rockwood Hoar, Hunton, Kellogg, Lawson, Milliken, O'Brien, Hosea W. Parker, Pendleton, Pierce, Jas. H. Platt, Jr., Poland, Potter, Sener, Small, Smart, Chas. A. Stevens, Storm, Swann, Taylor, Christopher Y. Thomas, Whitehouse, and Chas. W. Willard—39.

American Tea.

If, as St. Pierre asserts, the person who introduces and successfully cultivates in his own country a foreign esculent, fruit, or plant, useful for food and valuable for commerce, is a greater national benefactor than the leader of mighty armies; then, by a parity of reasoning, the Agricultural Bureau at Washington has accomplished within the past five years more substantial good for the United States than has either the War or Navy Department. He who planted the South American potato on Irish soil, sowed the seed of a permanent food supply to the peasantry of that island. Divine honors were awarded by the ancients to those beings who were supposed to have taught mankind how to cultivate wheat fields, vineyards, and orchards. Ceres, Bacchus, and Pomona will be remembered as long as the golden grain invites the rustic's sickle, the blushing clusters deck the tendrils vine, or the fruit trees droop with the autumnal yield of mellow apples and luscious pears. Pliny has preserved the name of the noble knight who first naturalized the cherry at Rome. The currant of Corinth has become disseminated by similar agencies over the civilized globe, and the peach, that constitutes such an important produce in the Middle States, is said to have been originally an almond, and to have since acquired by proper culture its juicy pulp and exquisite flavor.

Nature subsidizes the elements to aid in the propagation and wide diffusion of all plants useful to mankind. The winds, the waves waft from foreign climes new additions to our food supply. The very birds of the air, in their annual migrations, are made by an all-wise economy to be the carriers from distant climes of various seeds, destined to germinate and flourish in an alien land as soon as they are acclimated to their new habitation. He has not lived in vain who has planted a tree that in future ages will afford grateful shade and shelter. Nor is he less useful to his own and ensuing generations who has by the adoption of improved systems of tillage clothed the arid plains with verdure and made the desert blossom as the rose. Agriculture is a potent agent of peace, commerce,

and civilization. The olive branch was not an inappropriate symbol of the blessings of concord. Commerce has introduced into this country some of the best known varieties of that tree which thrives best when the husbandman's labors are not interrupted by the ravages of war.

Despite Priestley's assertions to the contrary, this continent is the new world—all-productive in its yield, exuberant in its growth, and possesses varieties of soil and diversities of climate essential to the proper development and naturalization of all the agricultural products transplanted here from other regions, either by the natural agencies of tides and currents, birds of passage, the sails of commerce, and the ceaseless exertions of agricultural bureaus. For many years after the first introduction of tea into Europe, China was considered to have been granted by nature the monopoly of its growth. When Japanese tea was first imported it was a long time before those whose taste was cultivated to the Chinese commodity could believe that any good tea could come out of Japan. Many tea-drinking Americans will be surprised to learn that excellent merchantable tea, superior to the imported, because not adulterated, has been raised by the efforts of General Le Duc in the States of South Carolina and Georgia. It is well known to connoisseurs of tea that it is drank only in its perfection in the country where the plant is grown. As a rule the Mandarin tea is all consumed by the wealthy Chinese at home. The Caravan tea, next in price and excellence, is conveyed overland to Europe. Imported teas are sensibly affected by a sea voyage, and are usually "doctored" for the markets. Moreover, there is sophisticated or adulterated tea, innocent of a trace of theine, and composed of an indiscriminate admixture of leaves, broken stems, and Prussian blue.

The Commissioner of Agriculture wished to promote the culture and manufacture of tea, so that our people could be assured of the genuine article. He having ascertained from the best authority that there are various localities in Georgia and South Carolina as well adapted for tea culture as Assam, in India, which, tradition states, was the birthplace of that plant, now in universal use, has, by a series of experiments, ascertained that the adaptability of the soil and climate of these two Southern States to the cultivation of the tea plant has not been overestimated. Thus a new industry is introduced into this country; and even in the Middle, as well as the Southern States, can be pursued with profit to the purse and benefit to the health. Millions of dollars would thus be added to our national wealth.

King Solomon and the Blacksmith.

The blacksmith has sometimes been called the king of mechanics, and this is the way he is said to have earned the distinction:

The story goes that, during the building of Solomon's Temple, that wise ruler decided to treat all the artisans employed on his famous edifice to a banquet. While the men were enjoying the good things his bounty had provided, King Solomon moved about from table to table, endeavoring to become better acquainted with his workmen. To one of them he said:

"My friend, what is your trade?"

"A carpenter."

"And who makes your tools?"

"The blacksmith," replied the carpenter.

To another Solomon said:

"What is your trade?" and the reply was:

"A mason!"

"And who makes your tools?"

"The blacksmith," replied the mason.

A third stated that he was a stone-cutter, and that the blacksmith also made his tools. The fourth man whom King Solomon addressed was the blacksmith himself. He was a powerful man, with bared arms, on which the muscles stood out in bold relief, and seemingly, almost as hard as the metal he worked.

"And who makes your tools?"

"Make 'em myself," said the blacksmith.

Whereupon King Solomon immediately proclaimed him the King of Mechanics, because he could not only make his own tools, but all other artisans were forced to go to him to have their tools made.

A Very Valuable Recipe.

For burns or scalds, nothing is more soothing than the white of an egg, which may be poured over the wound. It is softer, as a varnish for a burn, than collodion, and being always at hand can be applied immediately. It is also more cooling than the "sweet oil and cotton" which was formerly supposed to be the surest application to allay the smarting pain. It is the contact with the air which gives the extreme discomfort experienced from ordinary accidents of this kind; and anything which excludes air and prevents inflammation is the thing to be at once applied. The egg is also considered one of the best remedies for dysentery. Beaten up slightly, with or without sugar, and swallowed at a gulp, it tends by its emollient qualities to lessen the inflammation of the stomach and intestines, and by forming a transient coating on those organs to enable nature to resume her healthful sway over the diseased body. Two or at most three eggs per day would be all that is required in ordinary cases; and since the egg is not merely medicine, but food as well, the lighter the diet otherwise, and the quieter the patient is kept, the more certain and rapid is the recovery.

Patriotism at a Discount.

Soon after the firing on Sumter a gentleman of New York, who passes his summers by the waters of South Bay, had occasion to drive from New York to Islip, and to pass through the principal villages along the shore. Nearly everywhere the patriotism of the people was manifested by numerous flags that waved from poles, or were flung from windows, and each village contained groups of men who were discussing the important events of the day. One village only was without bunting, and there was a sullen crowd at the principal store, whose breathings were anything but loyal. The gentleman was well known to the inhabitants, and felt justified in reproving them for their political attitude. He told what he had seen on his way down, how the other villages were decked with flags, and asked why they did not do like their neighbors. The men looked one toward another for several moments, and finally the boldest ventured to speak.

"Flags, eh?" said he, in a tone of withering contempt. "Flags!—and clams a dollar a thousand!"